

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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METHAMPHETAMINE CONSPIRACY NETS 210 MONTH PRISON SENTENCE

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on October 13, 2006, **JOSEPH A. MUNTZER**, age 25, of Evansville, Indiana, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton for his role in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine in and around White County, Illinois. **MUNTZER** was sentenced to a term of 210 months imprisonment, ordered to pay a \$500 fine and a \$100 special assessment, and placed on a 5 year term of supervised release to follow his incarceration.

Under Federal law, parole has been abolished and defendants are required to serve at least 85 percent of their sentences.

MUNTZER was charged in September 2005 by a Federal Grand Jury with conspiring to manufacture and distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine. MUNTZER pled guilty to that charge in May 2006.

MUNTZER's conviction and sentence stem from a long term investigation into the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine in White, Gallatin, and Saline Counties which, thus far, has resulted in the federal indictment of 65 individuals who were responsible for the manufacture or attempted manufacture of over 600,000 grams of methamphetamine. In addition, over 50 individuals have been prosecuted in state court in related cases by the States Attorneys of White, Gallatin, and Saline Counties.

The on-going investigation into the case is currently being led by the Carmi office of the Southern Illinois Drug Task Force, with the assistance of the Illinois State Police, the White County Sheriff's Department, the Carmi Police Department, the Shawneetown Police Department, the Gallatin County Sheriff's Department, the Multi-Agency Drug Enforcement Unit of the Saline County Sheriff's Department, the Harrisburg Police Department, the Eldorado Police Department, the Galatia Police Department, the Posey County, Indiana, Narcotics Task Force, the White County State's Attorney's Office, the Gallatin County State's Attorney's Office, the Saline County State's Attorney's Office, and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James M. Cutchin.